

# MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

*“Expecting Excellence Every Day”*

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** May 27, 2008

**TO:** Wardens

**FROM:** Dennis M. Straub, Deputy Director *Dennis M. Straub*  
Correctional Facilities Administration

**SUBJECT:** Nicotine Replacement Therapies

Staff and prisoners have questioned whether nicotine replacement therapies (nicotine patches and lozenges) can be considered medical expenses so that family members and others can send funds earmarked for this purpose. The Prisoner Funds policy (PD 04.02.105, Paragraph T #3), currently indicates that funds can be sent specifically for release planning or for payment of medical or education expenses. Although “medical expenses” is not clearly defined in policy, nicotine replacement therapies reasonably fall within that classification, which thereby allows prisoners to use this money for their purchase. This will be more clearly defined in the next revision of the Prisoner Funds policy, which was recently sent out for 30-day review. Please keep in mind that funds that are earmarked for medical expenses can be used by the prisoner for any medical expense and cannot be designated solely for the purchase of nicotine replacement therapies.

If there are any questions regarding this, please let me know.

DMS:CG

cc: Director Caruso  
Heidi Washington  
Melody Wallace  
Russ Marlan  
RPAs – Regions I, II, & III  
Regional Health Administrators – Regions I, II & III  
FOA Administrators & Managers  
Lynda Zeller, Health Services Administrator  
Duncan Howard, Administrator of Operations, Health Services  
Tobacco Cessation Committee